



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Sept. 2010 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 SEPTEMBER 23, 2010 MEETING

SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Victoria Arrigoni, Shelly Dein, Deanne Dupont, Dave Haas, Elizabeth Karpati, David Landskov, Charlotte Milan, Brucie Moulton, Scott Samenfeld, Colleen Spindler-Renta, Scott Veggeberg, Austin Whitman.

Facilitator: Charlotte Milan Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: Wed. Oct. 20, Thurs. Nov. 18, Wed. Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as presented.

The new Open Meeting law must be followed. Detailed interpretation is not yet available, but the law seems to mean that:

All decisions must be made at the meetings, with minutes kept, not in subcommittees.

Steering Committee meetings must keep minutes. But ad hoc committees are exempt from the law, per Joey Glushko.

Discussion by e-mails to all is equivalent to a meeting and thus subject to the law: illegal unless minutes are kept!

The law applies to official bodies, thus to SA because it is a committee of Vision 2020. The suggestion was made that if the law proves too burdensome, SA could withdraw from Vision 2020 and continue as just a chapter of MCAN.

The Energy Working Group has been reactivated by the new Deputy Town Manager. It includes representatives from DPW, Facilities, and Schools; SA representatives are Shelly and Ryan Katofsky. Shelly is helping to track energy use in Town properties. The Town is aiming to reduce energy use by 20% in five years.

Town Day will feature a ceremony announcing that Arlington has qualified as a Green Community. SA members helped the Town write some grants for funds under the GC Act. Some were successful and the money will be put to use in several energy efficiency projects.

Another grant is being sought for creating a rain garden in a wet spot of Magnolia Field.

Scott reported that all committee pages are now on the website. He asked for stories and pictures from people who have e.g. installed solar panels. He hopes to make it possible to do voting on-line.

The creation of a "skills bank" list was suggested.

EcoFest is planned for March 26, 2011, focusing on sustainability, especially as it relates to water. SA is planning a preliminary event, "Windows on Water," on October 21, 2010, 7-9 p.m. at the Senior Center. There will be displays, and facilitated discussion groups with the ideas recorded and presented at the displays.

The CoolMass campaign is trying to educate small groups of households about energy use so that they can then educate other households. Winchester is participating. Belmont is taking a different approach by trying to promote energy audits. SA should do likewise, not endorsing any particular providers, but offering a list of questions to ask before signing up for an audit.

The 350.org's project for its 10/10/10 work day is to work with A-HEET to air-seal a house. They have a tentative client lined up but are still looking for a backup.